

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 NEA-10 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /180 W

----- 090195

R 261622Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4895

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 2120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EEC, MT

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ASSISTANCE TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 1864

1. SUMMARY: MINTOFF HAS LEARNED THAT FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK AND BRITAIN ARE OPPOSING WITHIN EC PROPOSAL FOR GRANTS AND SOFT LOANS TO MALTA FROM COMMUNITY.

2. WE ARE INFORMED BY BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS THAT RECENT WORKING GROUP MEETING AT BRUSSELS BROUGHT OUT NATIONAL POSITIONS ON PROPOSAL THAT EC PROVIDE GRANTS AND SOFT LOANS TO MALTA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS APPARENTLY A MEETING EITHER EARLY THIS WEEK OR LAST WEEK IN WHICH FRANCE, DENMARK, NETHERLANDS AND UK ALL TOOK RIGID POSITIONS AGAINST  
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SUCH ASSISTANCE. ITALIANS WERE SAID TO FAVOR PROPOSAL,

BELGIUM AND IRELAND GAVE VERY MODEST SUPPORT, WHILE FRG APPARENTLY TOOK A NEUTRAL POSITION.

3. THIS INFORMATION LEAKED BACK TO MALTA, AND EVENING OF OCT 25 MINTOFF CALLED IN SUCCESSIVELY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS HIS INDIGNATION. ACCORDING TO BRITISH AMBASSADOR, AFTER A SOMEWHAT PAINFUL SESSION MINTOFF DID NOT GO FURTHER THAN TO THREATEN TO REVEAL THE BRITISH POSITION TO THE MALTESE PUBLIC. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DID NOT ADMIT TO ANY THREATS, BUT SIMPLY TOOK POSITION THAT FRENCH ATTITUDE WAS NOT AIMED AT MALTA ALONE. AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT MINTOFF WAS LESS THAN CANDID WITH HIM WHEN HE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS THE ONLY EC COUNTRY OPPOSING MALTESE REQUEST.

4. APPARENTLY NON-RESIDENT DANISH AMBASSADOR TABOR, WHO WAS HERE ON BRIEF VISIT EARLIER THIS WEEK, WAS ALSO DRESSED DOWN BY SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: BRITISH POSITION SEEMS TO BE BASED ON TWO FACTORS: FIRST IS ON PURELY ECONOMIC GROUNDS THAT MALTA, COMPARED TO OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SIMPLY DOES NOT NEED THIS ASSISTANCE. SECONDLY, SO LONG AS MINTOFF IS REFUSING TO SERVICE BRITISH LOANS, UKG WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ENDORSE ANY FURTHER SOFT LOANS OR EVEN MORE GRANTS.

6. WHILE THIS SITUATION WILL INTENSIFY CURRENT UK-MALTESE FRICTION, IT IS AT LEAST FORTUNATE THAT THREE OTHER EC COUNTRIES ARE TAKING AS RIGID A POSITION AS THE UK, THUS TO SOME DEGREE DILUTING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

7. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THIS WILL BLOW UP FIRST CLASS ROW WITH REPERCUSSIONS FOR BASE AGREEMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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